

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed February 15, 2007, has been carefully considered. In response thereto, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Office Action and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully solicited in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-14 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the patent to *Takahashi et al.*, previously cited, in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,149,206 (*Pruzan et al.*) Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the patent to *Takahashi et al.*, in view of the patent to *Pruzan* and further in view of the patent to *Akiyama*, previously cited. For the reasons set forth below, the Applicant respectfully submits that the present Amendment overcomes all of those grounds of rejection.

In the present claimed invention, the internal sources comprise a radio frequency identification (RFID) source. As is known in the art, RFID sources are short-range communication systems between vehicles and the roadway. They can be used to accomplish a variety of tasks, such as payment, access control, and traffic and vehicle management. Thus, the present claimed invention offers an advantage in that such tasks can be done in an integrated vehicle information communication system having a communications medium comprising a vehicle data bus. Instead, the prior art used different, non-interoperable components for the various tasks which the integrated system according to the present claimed invention can perform.

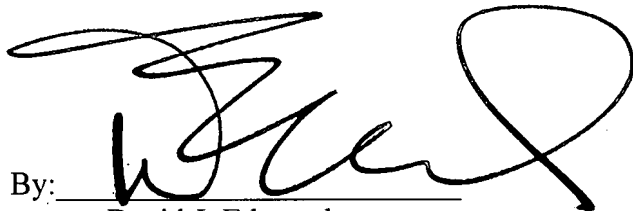
None of the applied references teaches or suggests the use of an RFID source in the context of the integrated vehicle information communication system defined by the present claims. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that the present claimed invention would

not have been obvious over either of the combinations of references proposed in the Office Action.

For the reasons set forth above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice of such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Please charge any shortage of fees or credit any overpayment thereof to BLANK ROME LLP, Deposit Account No. 23-2185 (114944-00451). It is respectfully submitted that no Petition for Extension of Time is required to accompany the present submission. However, in the event that a separate Petition for an Extension of Time is required to render this submission timely and either does not accompany this submission or is insufficient to render this submission timely, the Applicant herewith petitions under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for an extension of time for as many months as are required to render this submission timely. Any fee due is authorized above.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Edmondson', written over a horizontal line.

By: _____
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